

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 8-9, 11, 13 and 19-26 were previously canceled. In this amendment, claims 1 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Therefore, claims 1-7, 10, 12, 14-18 and 27-30 are now pending.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300 to schedule a telephone interview, in the event the Examiner does not find the present application to be allowable after considering this response.

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 16 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent no. 5, 819, 292 of Hitz et al. ("Hitz"). Claims 2-5, 10, 12, 15 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Hitz in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,038,570 of Hitz et al. ("Hitz_2").

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, the limitations:

generating, for each one of a plurality of regions of said storage blocks in said mass storage system, a value indicative of a number of storage blocks available for writing data in said region, based on said active map and at least one snapshot of the file system, each said region including a plurality of storage blocks in the active file system and a plurality of storage blocks in each of said at least one snapshot . . .

Hitz does not disclose or suggestion this functionality. Note that claim 14 also recites similar limitations.

The Examiner interprets the block map (“blkmap”) file in Hitz as representing the “active map” in Applicants’ claims 1 and 14 (Final Office Action, page 6, lines 13-14). The Examiner also interprets the blkmap in Hitz as representing the “values” recited in Applicants’ claims 1 and 14 (Final Office Action, page 3, last seven lines; page 7, lines 1-6). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is incorrect under that interpretation or any reasonable interpretation of Hitz.

The above-noted limitation in claims 1 and 14 requires that the recited “value” is generated *based on the active map*. Therefore, the blkmap in Hitz cannot represent the active map of Applicants’ claims 1 and 14 *and* the “values” recited in those claims (per the Examiner’s interpretation), since Applicants find no suggestion in Hitz that any value in Hitz’s blkmap is generated based on the blkmap itself. For at least this reason, therefore, Hitz does not disclose or suggest, per claims 1 and 14, generating, for each one of a plurality of regions of said storage blocks in the mass storage system, a value indicative of a number of storage blocks available for writing data in said region, *based on said active map*. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 14 is improper and should be withdrawn.

In addition, claims 1 and 14 have been amended to clarify that *each* of said “regions” of storage blocks includes *a plurality of storage blocks in the active file system and a plurality of storage blocks in each of said at least one snapshot*. This limitation further distinguishes the present invention from Hitz. The blkmap in Hitz contains a 32-

bit entry for each 4 Kbyte block in the system. Within each 32-bit entry, one bit corresponds to a single block in the active file system, and each other bit in that entry corresponds to that same block in a particular snapshot. Col. 9, lines 50-53; col. 10, lines 7-11. Thus, each 32-bit entry in the blkmap of Hitz represents only a *single* 4 KB byte block in the active file system and in each snapshot, not a *plurality* of storage blocks in the active file system and in each snapshot per claims 1 and 14. Therefore, Hitz does not disclose or suggest, per claims 1 and 14, generating, for each one of a plurality of regions of said storage blocks in the mass storage system, a value indicative of a number of storage blocks available for writing data in said region, based on said active map and at least one snapshot of the file system, *each said region including a plurality of storage blocks in the active file system and a plurality of storage blocks in each of said at least one snapshot*. For this additional reason, therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 14 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 are neither anticipated nor obvious based on the cited art. As such, claims 1 and 14 and all claims which depend on them are allowable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

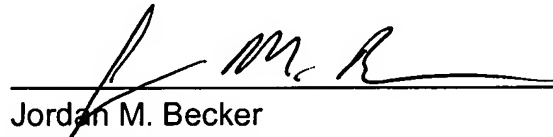
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Jordan M. Becker
Reg. No. 39,602

Customer No. 48102
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(408) 720-8300